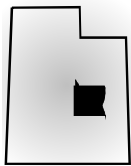


County Trends



Emery

December 2002

A Local Economic Perspective

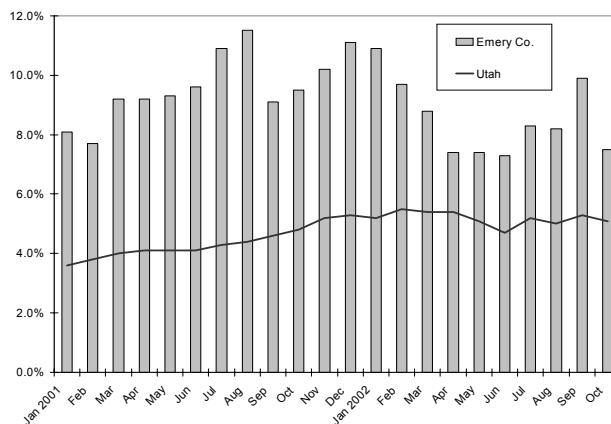
Emery County 2002 - Still Struggling

Emery County's economy continued to struggle in the first half of 2002. However, while nonfarm employment continued to fall, the rate of decline slowed considerably. A contracting labor force and fewer job losses resulted in the unemployment rate trending downward. The most current unemployment rate, October 2002 was 7.5 percent, two-percentage points below the 9.5 percent in October 2001.

A Few Employment Brightspots

Emery County's nonfarm employment slid during the first two quarters of 2002 compared to the first two quarters of 2001. Nonfarm jobs fell 4.0 percent in the first quarter, but only 1.5 percent in the second. Coal mining continued to lose jobs, as did utilities. These two industries account for more than 30 percent of total nonfarm employment in the county. New nonresidential buildings and road work gave construction a much needed boost, adding more than 60 jobs. Manufacturing jobs were virtually unchanged.

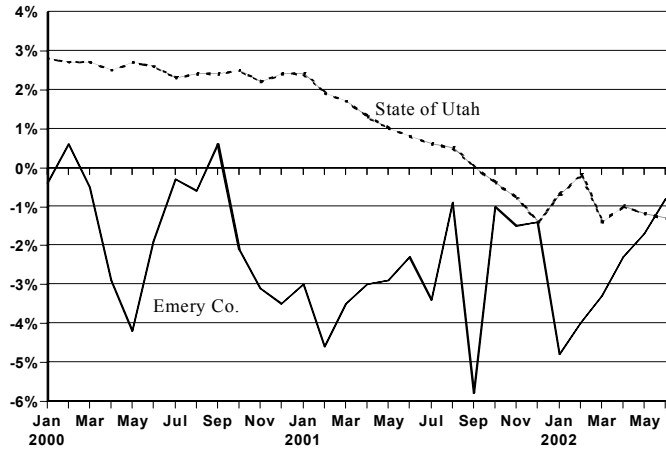
Seasonally Adjusted Emery County Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.



Year-Over Change in Emery County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

Jobs losses continued in Emery County, though the rate of loss decreased. In fact, in June 2002, jobs losses of 1.3 percent in Utah exceeded the 0.9 percent decline in Emery. The local economy will continue to struggle as long as utilities and mining employment remain stagnant. Greater diversity would help soften the impact of economic downturns.

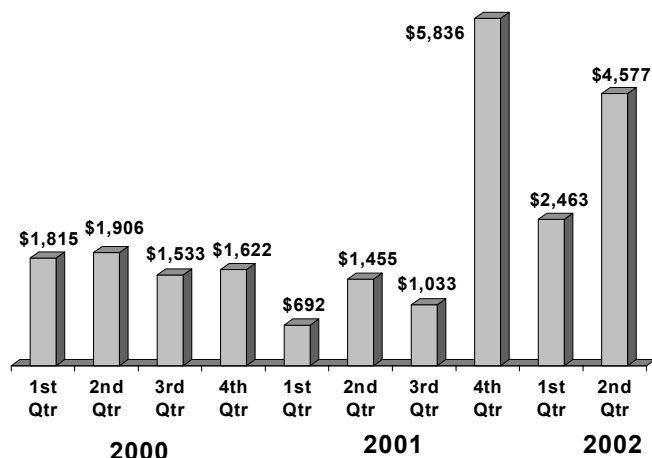
Among the service industries, year-over data for the first half of 2002 show that a few jobs were added in repair services, food service, accommodations, and health care. Trucking also eeked out a few more positions. Information lost a few jobs, as gains in telecommunications were offset by losses in data processing. Government employment fell as local public education cut jobs due to declining enrollments. Federal land management related jobs increased. Retail trade shed a few jobs, primarily at food stores. Wholesale trade employment suffered steep declines.

Construction Takes Off

Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, shot-up in the first six months of 2002. Total valuation increased a dramatic 228 percent. Residential construction shows more units and higher valuations. Housing starts shot-up 67 percent, while residential valuations rose 72 percent.

Emery County Total Construction Permit Valuation

3



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



Nonresidential activity soared thanks to a new court complex and a hotel. Overall, the total value of non-residential construction was \$4.9 million in the first half of 2002. Renovation valuation showed strong growth as well.

Sales Improve

Year-over gross taxable retail sales rose in the first (3.1%) and second quarters (7.9%) of 2002. Mining sales were robust as were those for manufacturing. Communication sales were also strong. Retail trade sales grew as motor vehicle sales increased. Services sales dropped due to declines in business services.

Outlook for the Rest of 2002

Emery County's economy will continue to struggle. The national recession and uncertainty over energy prices will help keep growth rates down through the rest of 2002 and into 2003. Construction and telecommunications growth will continue to provide a buffer to overall jobs losses.

Austin Sargent, Regional Economist
asargent@utah.gov, 801-526-9464

Quick Facts

October 2002

Unemployment Rate

Emery County	7.5%
Utah	5.2%
U.S.	5.6%

June 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Emery County	-0.8%
Utah	-1.3%
U.S.	-1.1%

2nd Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Emery County	228.0%
--------------	--------

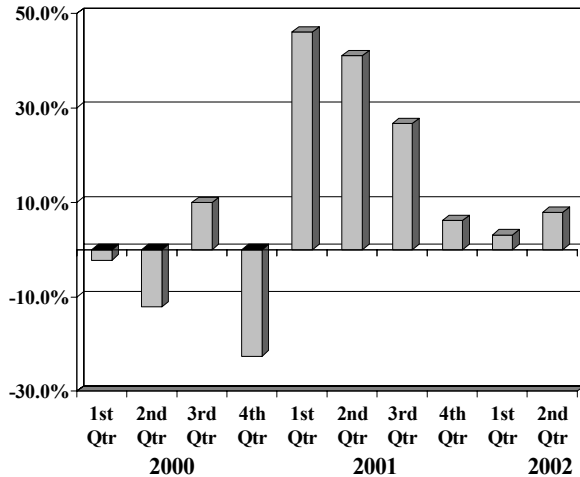
Sales

Emery County	7.9%
--------------	------

Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Emery County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>**

Year-Over Change in Emery County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

What's Up? ⁴

- Emery Telcom was awarded a contract to conduct a customer satisfaction survey for the Department of Workforce Services at the Smart Site in Orangeville.
- Healthaxis Imaging Services (HAIS), in Castle Dale, is planning to expand its operations. The new contract would require an additional 30–35 full-time workers.
- A new courts building is under construction on the site of the new Emery County Public Safety Complex.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/emery/emeryee.pdf>



Utah!
Where ideas connect™

Equal Opportunity Employment Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



Utah Department of Workforce Services

(801) 526-9786
jobs.utah.gov/wi
jkramer@utah.gov
PO Box 45249
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0249